

MUST THE MASSES STARVE?

What Is to Be the Outcome of the Present Financial Condition?

What is to be the outcome of the present financial condition? Is it possible that we have reached a point where the masses must starve because there is too much to eat, to go clad in rags because there is too much clothing, cold because there is too much fuel, and houseless because there are too many houses?

Paradoxical as this may seem, without a wise solution of the financial question this would seem apparently true. I have been acquainted with the condition of the masses and connected with organizations for forty five years, but never at any time have I seen so many unemployed and looking for work in vain. Manufactories are closing down, merchants cannot make collections, and every day adds to the gloom of the day preceding. We hear the question asked a hundred times a day, what is the cause of the present condition? The answer comes almost invariably the same—a lack of confidence. This is often said that a large proportion of the people have come to believe it. It is not confidence that is needed; it is money. Confidence will not pay debts. Confidence will not feed the hungry, nor clothe the naked, nor house the homeless. But money will. The cause of the deep depression now around us does not arise from production or our ability to produce, but it does arise from a wickedly conceived conspiracy to rob the toilers and turn them over, bound hand and foot, to the tender mercies of the Shylocks of the world. The apparent struggle for the so-called gold standard is not real, but is put forward to deceive and blind the people. From the best authority in Europe and America, 95 to 98 per cent. of all business is and must be done with credit. The real fight of the money-changer is to obtain permission to issue and control the credits, and through such issue to control the rates of interest and volume of money that is used by mankind. The amount collected at present in interest from the producing classes in the United States alone, according to the best obtainable authority, is over \$2,000,000,000 annually. Taking the figures given by the silver commission, and deducting therefrom \$1,000,000,000 on the national debt, and adding the mortgage on farms and homes, at the average rate per cent., and it will require the labor of 7,000,000 men, working every day in the year, at a dollar a day, to pay the present amount of interest paid. Now, it is safe to say that confidence will not pay this interest. Labor, and the products of labor, expressed in dollars alone can pay this debt. The question is, who shall create and issue these dollars, and to whom does the profit of their use belong. It is a well known fact that to create and issue money is an attribute alone of sovereign power. It is also a fact that the credit of the whole is equal to the combined credit of all its parts. It being then a fact that business must be done with credit, for the precious metals combined can do but a small portion of it, neither can they be a safe basis for such credit, it is therefore safe and wise to use that basis which is abundant and immovable. Let the land be the basis of credit, and we have a basis that is indestructible, and no longer a pyramid standing on its apex. Money, whether made of metal or paper, is created by the authority of the sovereign power of the people, and being created by their authority and for their use, the interest paid ought, of justice and right, to go back into the public treasury, and not to the banker or broker. This being true, congress has no moral right

to grant to banking corporations or syndicates the power to issue anything to be used as money within the limits of its own jurisdiction.

Let the government issue its own legal tender, based on the land, never more than 50 per cent. of its valuation, the rate of interest paid the government never more than 3 per cent. per annum, which is the limit of increase of land production. Confidence will be immediately restored; panics and "Black Fridays" will be things of the past; unemployed labor will be a thing unknown; and we immediately double the market for our own production. The interest thus paid the government for the use of the money issued will render in a very short time the tax gatherer unnecessary. Then will come to pass that which Christ said to the Pharisees—"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's"—and unto the people that which is the people's. By this means we liberate the precious metals from paying debts within our own jurisdiction, leaving them free to pay balances due foreign nations according to their commercial value, and thereby liberate ourselves from the "entangling alliances" with European money powers, making us independent of their domination. This, carried into practical effect, would very soon make us largely the receptacle of the precious metals of the world. The system of obtaining gold in the past from other nations, has been fraught with danger and widespread distress to the producing classes. The people have been falsely taught to look upon gold as the wealth of the world, while it furnishes little or none of the creature comforts to mankind. Whenever a nation has by any means been practically depleted of its gold there are but two ways by which it can be restored, and both are disastrous. One is by issuing bonds, which increases the amount of indebtedness and lessens the ability to pay. The other is to undersell foreign nations in their own markets, and thereby lessen the reward of the producer at home.—R. F. Trevellick in National View, December 30, 1893.

Best Way to Prevent Corruption.

EDITOR ADVOCATE:—In your issue of December 27, "A Linn County Farmer" denounces the deplorable corruption and venality that has taken hold of all the departments of the government and as a remedy proposes the enactment of stringent laws against official and legislative wrongdoing. While such legislation might be beneficial it would only be so as a palliative or deterrent and could never work a cure.

When we punish vagrant and criminal we do not remove the causes that have brought about their offense; only by a thorough re-organization of society can we get rid of the tramp. Just so with our mercenary officials and venal legislators.

It is the system that is at fault. We should strain every nerve to bring about direct legislation through the initiative and referendum, and by this one great and fundamental reform would accomplish more than by a thousand statutes on bribery and corruption.

Populists in Colorado are fully satisfied with last fall's election, with possibly the exception of Denver, where ill advised fusion ruined promising chances of success. Here in the west we have swept everything, and the party's nominee for congress next fall is sure of election.

CURT VON HAGEN.

Ridgway, Colo., January 4, 1894.

Send for an ADVOCATE subscription placard to hang in your store or office.

Dutton House, Topeka, Kas., \$1.25-\$1.50 per day

WHY WRITE TO THE EDITOR?

And sign yourself "A constant reader" or "An old subscriber." If you want to know when Christopher Columbus discovered America, or the date of the great fire of London, or what is good for whooping cough.

It is true the editor is only too willing to oblige you, but why get your information at second hand? Is it not better to have it in your own head, ready for use at all times, and to realize in its full significance that "knowledge is power?"

All knowledge is useful, but well assorted, well digested knowledge will enable you to fill satisfactorily any position in life to which you may be called.

How is the best way to acquire this knowledge? Not by a stray question, asked at odd times, but by having by you, in convenient form, the best and most carefully arranged compendium of human knowledge extant.

You know with what care the present edition of the Bible was revised. How many learned men consulted for months over each chapter, each paragraph. How every word was weighed with thoughtful care, so as to bring out its best and truest meaning.

In the same way scholarly men, well versed in all branches of knowledge, selected on account of their eminence in the professions which they adorned, labored for years to produce in concentrated form a comprehensive library of all useful facts. The result of their labors was the *Revised Encyclopedia Britannica*. It is a wonderful work. It contains the history of all things and an explanation of natural phenomena. It is as useful to the carpenter as it is to the poet. It remains for us to place this useful work within reach of the people. For the price of one cigar a day, the poorest workman may make himself master of any art, and have at home a library that will be the pride and delight of his wife and children.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

On receipt of only **One Dollar** we will forward to you, charges prepaid, the entire set of 20 volumes, the remaining \$9.00 to be paid at the rate of 10 cents a day (to be remitted monthly). A beautiful dime savings bank will be sent with the books; in which the dime may be deposited each day. This edition is printed from new, large type on a fine quality of paper, and strongly bound in heavy manilla paper covers, which with proper care will last for years. Bear in mind that the entire 20 volumes are delivered to your address, with all charges paid to any part of the United States.

Copy or Cut this Out and Send to The Advocate Pub. Co., Topeka, Kansas.

Advocate Publishing Co., Topeka, Kansas.

Please deliver to me the entire set of Twenty (20) volumes of *Revised Encyclopedia Britannica*, as above described, together with your Dime Savings Bank, for which I enclose One Dollar, and further agree to remit 10 cents a day (remitting the same monthly) until the remaining \$9.00 is fully paid.

Name _____

Postoffice _____

County _____

State _____

A Priceless Premium Offer.

Ropp's Commercial Calculator.

[Edition for 1893-4.]



A Work that is indispensable in every Business Trade or Profession.

1,000,000 BUSINESS PROBLEMS SOLVED.

Never before has so much Practical Mathematical Knowledge been condensed into one volume.

A Practical Arithmetic for Practical Purposes.

Thousands of voluntary testimonials. The Chicago Times says: "A publication that must prove of incalculable value to the commercial world—unless the book can calculate its own worth—for it calculates almost everything."

REGULAR PRICE, 50 CENTS.

This work embodies every practical rule known in commercial calculation and all of the best features of higher arithmetics, "lightning calculators," etc., besides hundreds of original methods and "short cuts" for easy and rapid calculation. It embraces and simplifies the whole science of arithmetic, retaining only the cream and avoiding the more cumbersome and tedious processes of "higher mathematics."

Every Farmer, Mechanic and Business Man Should Possess a Copy.

There are over 100 Commercial Tables, including Grain and Stock tables; Interest and Wages tables; Freight, Grocers' and Ginners' tables; tables of Money, Weights, Measures, Board, Rent, Specific Gravity, etc.; Lumber and Log tables; tables showing capacity of Cisterns, Bins, Wagon Beds, Corn Crib, Cord Wood, etc.; tables for Carpenters, Masons, Plasterers and Bricklayers' work; new system of "Advance and Discount" tables, etc., etc.

It is truly a book for everybody; equally valuable in the Home, on the Merchant's desk, on the Editor's table, in the Mechanic's chest, or in the Farmer's pocket. Neatly printed and bound in leatherette, embellished in gold leaf bronze. It will commend itself to every thoughtful and progressive mind for its originality, simplicity and usefulness.

We give a copy of this book to every new yearly subscriber.